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FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Examiner Michael S. Chambers

COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office

YOUR FAX NO: (571) 273-8300

FROM: Michael A. Hierl

RE: U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/666,449
for Sports Equipment Handle with Cushion and Grip Ribs
Our Ref: EAST-003

DATE: March 17, 2006

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3 (Including this Transmittal Sheet)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Gary Filice et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: 3711
Serial No.:	10/666,449)	
)	Examiner: Michael S. Chambers
Filed:	September 19, 2003)	
)	Attorney Docket No.: EAST-003
For:	Sports Equipment Handle)	
	with Cushion and Grip Ribs)	

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MAR 17 2006Communication with the Examiner

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants are in the process of preparing a response to the Office Action of February 16, 2006. At the outset, applicants thank the Examiner for the careful attention paid to the preceding prosecution which necessitated a new (second) restriction requirement. Applicants were prepared to elect invention group I (claims 1- 9) and species group I (FIGS. 2, 3 and 15).

Regrettably, applicants now realize that unfortunate wording in claim 1 does not accurately reflect the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2, 3 and 15. In particular, the shaft is shown in those Figures as having a generally constant "thickness", even at the cross-sectional corners. Claim 1, which, in part, calls for an elongate shaft having a region of reduced thickness, may not read on FIGS. 2, 3 and 15.

Accordingly, it appears to applicants that some amendment to claim 1 may be needed at this point during prosecution, unfortunately at a time when a response to a restriction requirement is due. Applicants believe that the following proposed amendment:

Claim 1 (amended): A sports equipment handle comprising:

an elongate shaft made of a first material and including at least one region having a depressed groove of reduced diameter or thickness; and

a cover made of a second material and surrounding the shaft in a manner whereby the outer diameter of the handle including the cover is substantially uniform and the cover includes at least one region of inward protrusion extending into the at least one region increased thickness in the region of the shaft having the reduced diameter or thickness.

will correct any deficiencies present in the application and can be made without altering the Examiner's invention and species restriction requirement. If the Examiner agrees to entry of the above amendment to claim 1, applicants will file a response electing invention group I and species group I.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned to discuss any problems or raise other matters helpful to a disposition of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 17, 2006

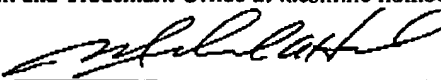
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via facsimile to the attention of Mail Stop Amendment; Commissioner for Patents, in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on March 17, 2006.


Michael A. Hierl